

In South Africa, Maclean (1985) describes the eggs as being dull white or greenish white spotted with olive-brown and greyish brown while Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) describe them as dull white or whitish green spotted and blotched with various shades of brown.

On 3 April one of the birds was taken by a Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* and the nest was deserted until 14 April when what was presumably the remaining bird was seen clearing nesting material from the hole. On 25 April a Brown Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* was also seen removing nesting material. However, on 2 May a pair of *M. plumbeus* were once again seen carrying material to the nest site and, although one adult was occasionally seen sitting on the nest between 14 and 20 May, breeding was not successful.

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## Woodpecker feeding immature honeyguide

On 8 August 1993, G. Davey, T. Davidson and I were bird watching in a patch of groundwater forest some 2 km east of the Masai Mara Game Reserve's Musiara Gate in southwestern Kenya. We watched a pair of Bearded Woodpeckers *Thripis namaquus* foraging. The female collected a bill-full of insects and flew into the canopy of a nearby *Euclea* tree, closely followed by a Scaly-throated honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*. From its very pale underside, it was judged to be an immature. Perching near the woodpecker, the honeyguide begged with wing-fluttering and open bill. The woodpecker immediately fed its load of insects into the honeyguide's gape and left in search of more. The feeding was repeated three times in 15 min.

This record suggests that *Thripis namaquus* is a nest host for *Indicator variegatus*, and confirms that the fledgling honeyguide is fed after it has left the host's nest hole. Other potential hosts for honeyguides seen in the same patch of forest at the same time included Spotted-flanked Barbets *Lybius lacrymosus*, Grey Woodpecker *Mesopicos goertae* and Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudata*.

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